

Borough House, Playhouse
State Route 261
Stateburg
Sumter County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-345

HABS
SC
48-STATEB
1K-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013

HABS
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Borough House, Playhouse

HABS No. SC-345

Location: On the grounds of the Borough House plantation complex on west side of State Route 261, 0.8 mile north of intersection of Route 261 and State Route 76-378; Stateburg, Sumter County, South Carolina

U.S.G.S. Wedgefield, SC 7.5 Minute Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Coordinates:
17.542940.3757100

Present Owner: Mrs. Richard K. Anderson
The Borough House
RFD 3 Box 276
Sumter, South Carolina 29154

Present Use: vacant

Significance: The playhouse is a dependency of the Borough House plantation complex and is part of the gardens immediately adjacent to the main house.

The Borough House complex was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Stateburg Historic District in 1971 and as an individual site in 1972.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

NOTE: Background material and site history for the playhouse may be found in data pages for the Borough House, Stateburg, Sumter County, South Carolina, HABS No. SC-362. Data specific to the playhouse follows below.

The playhouse is a small log structure approximately 7'-0" x 4'-6" and 9'-0" high set on four field stone piers. It has a dutch door, and two shuttered windows without glazing. The playhouse was constructed c. 1927 for the children of Mrs. Walter C. White, owner of the Borough House at the time, and incorporated "traditional" log construction with clay chinking, and a cypress shingle roof. The house was located on the Borough House grounds until the 1940s, when it was moved to a neighboring house about 0.2 mile north of the Borough House. It remained there until around 1960, when it was repatriated to the Borough House gardens and repaired as a playhouse for Mrs. Anderson's daughter. Repairs consisted primarily of replacing the remaining chinking with cement tinted to match the yellow ochre color of the main house.

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Mrs. Anderson (present owner of the Borough House) believes the playhouse was built at the same time as a log cabin structure which still exists to the south of the Borough House grounds along Route 261. The cabin, also a traditional log structure, was built by Mrs. White to accomodate a forester when she first began to convert the plantation to timber management in the 1920s.